

December 8, 1963

Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Information concerning article
published December 8, 1963,
Dallas Times Herald.

Sir:

J. E. Curry

On December 7, 1963, at approximately 1:30 P.M., I received a telephone call at my home from a person identifying himself as Darwin Payne, representative of the Dallas Times Herald.

Mr. Payne stated his reason for calling was to verify statements made by me to the Radio and Television News Media on November 24, 1963 shortly after the assassination of Lee Harvey Oswald (accused assassin of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.)

Mr. Payne then asked several questions pertaining to that interview of November 24, 1963. Mr. Payne's questions seemed to be verbatim of the interview in question.

I will quote them as near as possible as they were asked, in their sequence and also my answers, which were nearly always in the affirmative or negative.

Mr. Payne: - "Were you at the Armored Car when the shot was fired?"
Answer: - "Yes."
Payne: - "Did you see the person that fired the shot at the time it was fired?"
Answer: - "No."
Payne: - "Did you see the person that fired the shot shortly after it was fired?"
Answer: - "Yes."
Payne: - "Where? Was he inside the jail office and on the floor at that time?"
Answer: - "Yes - he was on the floor and being restrained and handcuffed by several plainclothes officers."
Payne: - "Did you recognize the subject at that time as a person you knew by sight?"
Answer: - "Yes."

Payne: - "Did you or had you seen this person prior to this time in or around the City Hall?"

Answer: - "No."

Payne: - "And you didn't see this person enter from the Main Street ramp?"

Answer: - "Definately not."

Payne: - "Did you see anything at the time of the shooting?"

I assumed by this question that he meant a flash from the gun-fire and I asked him was this what he meant and he said yes. I then advised him that I saw smoke from the blast, and I ran immediately to the scene to control the crowd.

This terminated his questions and I asked Mr. Payne the reason for him calling as all this was old news. He then stated he was just verifying this interview and that he didn't really know what the Times Herald was going to do with this information.

I made myself very clear to Mr. Payne that I had not seen Ruby at anytime before the shooting in or around the City Hall.

On Sunday when I arrived at my home I noticed the subject article and read same with much interest and reached the conclusion that this article possibly had evolved from the telephone conversation on the previous day.

I immediately called an acquaintance and friend that is employed by the Times Herald to ascertain the identity of the reporter and this person stated that he did not know who had written the article. I then noticed the name of a reporter in the same edition, Mr. Bob Henley, and I called him, identified myself and asked him if he could advise me who had written the article. Mr. Henley stated that he didn't know for sure and related several names of persons that would have been on duty and mentioned the name of this Darwin Payne. I recognized this as the person that had called me.

I then called Mr. Payne at his home, telephone WH 6-5892, and asked him if he had written the article and he stated that he did.

The following are questions and answers I asked of Mr. Payne during this telephone conversation.

Question: - "Why did you print that I had seen Ruby enter the basement?"

Mr. Payne then answered: - "Well, I thought that you had seen him."

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